

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Our Docket No.: 406590)

In re the Application of)
Paulsen, Craig) Art Unit: 3713
Serial No.: 10/008,748)
Filed: December 6, 2001) Examiner: Enatsky, A.
For: PROGRAMMABLE COMPUTER)
CONTROLLED EXTERNAL)
VISUAL INDICATOR FOR)
GAMING MACHINE)

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RULE 132 DECLARATION

I, Lawrence E. DeMar, hereby declare as follows:

1. I have been employed at Leading Edge Design, LLC, of which I am founder and President, since 1999. Leading Edge Design creates and develops gaming machine concepts including hardware and software solutions.
2. I have over twenty (20) years of experience in designing hardware and software for amusement and gaming machines. Between 1984 - 1999 I was engaged and employed by Williams Electronics Games, Inc. as a Designer and Programmer, Director of Electronic Design, Director of Slot Machine Design and Director of Engineering, respectively.
3. I received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1979.

4. I am an inventor of 22 issued patents in the area of amusement and gaming machines.

5. I am an inventor in U.S. Patent no. 5,091,677 issued February 25, 1992 entitled Lighting Control System for Pinball Games that employs a lighting circuit board that supports at least one string of lamps connected in parallel in order to maximize the useful life of lamps used in a pinball game.

6. My contribution to the '677 invention and other experiences described above, demonstrate that I possess at least ordinary skill in the art of amusement and gaming machines and in particular of lighting sources for amusement and gaming machines.

7. I have reviewed Applicant's present patent application for PROGRAMMABLE COMPUTER CONTROLLED EXTERNAL VISUAL INDICATOR FOR GAMING MACHINE, the amended claims being filed simultaneously with this declaration (hereinafter "the present invention") and also U.S. Patent Nos. 5,605,506 to Hoorn et al. (hereinafter "Hoorn") and 6,265,984 to Molinaroli (hereinafter "Mol").

8. Mol fails to teach or suggest the use of a display device for a gaming machine and is not concerned with the same field as Hoorn or the present invention.

9. Mol is not reasonably pertinent to the problems of concern in the present invention. Mol is concerned with alphanumeric and graphical communication via movable display devices. The present invention is concerned with non-alphanumeric, coded signaling via stationary multi-colored indicators of gaming machines.

10. Because Mol fails to disclose a display device or indicator for gaming machines and is not pertinent to the problems of concern in the present invention, I believe one of ordinary skill in the art of the present invention would not have considered Mol and therefore it would not

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Mol and Hoorn to arrive at the presently claimed invention.

11. I have reviewed the Mol patent and cannot find any suggestion to combine his teachings with Hoorn. Therefore, I believe that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Mol with Hoorn and, therefore, would not have arrived at an invention of a gaming machine having a visual indicator mounted to the gaming machine and including multiple LEDs and a programmed processor providing for the control of the color display of the external visual indicator.

12. Mol discloses only devices that require movement of the entire device itself or movement of light emitters within the device for operation of the device.

13. Mol does not teach or suggest a device in which the light emitters of the device may remain stationary for operation of the device.

14. Because Mol does not teach or suggest stationary display devices, I believe one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Mol with Hoorn.

15. Mol does not teach or suggest the use of stationary LEDs in order to send non-alphanumeric information.

16. I believe that one of ordinary skill in the art could not, without substantial modification, substitute the movable LED arrangements of Mol with the stationary light bulb of Hoorn.

17. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 8 - 16 above, I believe that neither Hoorn nor Mol, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a gaming machine having a visual indicator mounted to the gaming machine and including multiple LEDs and a programmed processor providing for the control of the color display of the external visual indicator.

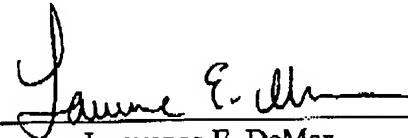
18. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 8 - 16 above, I believe that neither Hoorn nor Mol, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a processor automatically triggering a first customized illumination pattern of an external visual indicator upon an occurrence of a first special event.

19. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 8 - 16 above, I believe that neither Hoorn nor Mol, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a first multi-colored illumination pattern that may be selected and by which a user may indicate a first special event that will automatically trigger the first multi-colored illumination pattern to be displayed within a single stage of a candle.

20. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 8 - 16 above, I believe that neither Hoorn nor Mol, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a programmed processor providing for the control of an external visual indicator via an input operation to trigger an operation sequence including illumination of a first color display upon occurrence of a first special event and automatically triggering a second color display upon occurrence of a second special event.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dated: 1-15-04



Lawrence E. DeMar